\$\text{\tin}\text{\tetx{\text{\tetx{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\tin}\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\text{\text{\text{\texi}\tex{\text{\text{\text{\text{\text{\texi}\tint{\text{\ti}}\tint{\tex{\texi}}\tint{\text{\ti}}}}\tinttilex{\text{\text{\texi}}}\tintti

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

### File Copy

Int'l Appln No.:

PCT/US00/02688

Int'l Filing Date:

4 FEB 2000

Priority Date Claimed:

4 FEB 1999

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR

MAINTENANCE AND EXPANSION

OF HEMOPOIETIC STEM CELLS AND/OR

PROGENITOR CELLS

Applicant:

TECHNION RESEARCH &

DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION LTD.

Attorney Docket:

00/20187

#### RESPONSE

#### BOX PCT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a response to a Written Opinion sent April 30, 2001, a response to which is due, and being made, within one month.

Enclosed please find a replacement page 59, replacing pages 59-60 of the application as published (WO 00/46349), in which claims 89-99 have been canceled.

## Certain Observations on the International Application

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-99 under PCT Rule 66.2(a)(v) as lacking clarity under PCT Article 6 because the claims are indefinite, as the terms "plug-flow bioreactor" (claims 1-88) and "bioreactor plug" (claims 89-99) are uncertain as to meaning and scope. Claims 89-99 have now been canceled.

The term "plug-flow bioreactor" is used in patent literature, see for example, US Patents Nos. 6,033, 568; 5,873,997, 5,510,262; 5,342,522; 5,262,320 and